United Nations A/55/554

General Assembly

Distr.: General
8 November 2000

Original: English

Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 68

Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Rastislav **Gabriel** (Slovakia)

I Introduction

1. The item entitled "Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security" was included in the provisional agenda of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution 54/49 of 1 December 1999.

2. At its 9th plenary meeting, on 11 September 2000, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.

3. At its 2nd meeting, on 14 September 2000, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely, items 65 to 81, which was held at the 3rd to 13th meetings, from 2 to 13 October (see A/C.1/55/PV.3-13). Thematic discussions on the items were held, and draft resolutions were introduced and considered, at the 14th to 21st meetings, from 13 to 23 October (see A/C.1/55/PV.14-21). Action on all draft resolutions was taken at the 22nd to 28th meetings, from 25 October to 1 November (see A/C.1/55/PV.22-28).

4. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General on developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security (A/55/140 and Corr.1 and Add.1).

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II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.1/55/L.6

5. At the 18th meeting, on 19 October, the representative of the Russian Federation introduced a draft resolution entitled "Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security" (A/C.1/55/L.6).

6. At its 24th meeting, on 27 October, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/55/L.6 without a vote (see para. 7).

III. Recommendation of the First Committee

7. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 53/70 of 4 December 1998 and 54/49 of 1 December 1999,

Recalling also its resolutions on the role of science and technology in the context of international security, in which, inter alia, it recognized that scientific and technological developments could have both civilian and military applications and that progress in science and technology for civilian applications needed to be maintained and encouraged,

Noting that considerable progress has been achieved in developing and applying the latest information technologies and means of telecommunication,

Affirming that it sees in this process the broadest positive opportunities for the further development of civilization, the expansion of opportunities for cooperation for the common good of all States, the enhancement of the creative potential of mankind and additional improvements in the circulation of information in the global community,

Recalling in this connection the approaches and principles outlined at the Information Society and Development Conference, held at Midrand, South Africa, from 13 to 15 May 1996,

Bearing in mind the results of the Ministerial Conference on Terrorism, held in Paris on 30 July 1996, and the recommendations it made,[1]

Noting that the dissemination and use of information technologies and means affect the interests of the entire international community and that optimum effectiveness is enhanced by broad international cooperation,

Expressing concern that these technologies and means can potentially be used for purposes that are inconsistent with the objectives of maintaining international

[1] See A/51/261, annex.

stability and security and may adversely affect the security of States in both civil and military fields,

Noting the contribution of those Member States that have presented their assessments on issues of information security to the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraphs 1 to 3 of resolutions 53/70 and 54/49,

Taking note of the reports of the Secretary-General containing those assessments,[2]

Welcoming the initiative taken by the Secretariat and the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research in convening an international meeting of experts at Geneva in August 1999 on developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security, as well as its results,

Considering that the assessments of the Member States contained in the reports of the Secretary-General and the international meeting of experts have contributed to a better understanding of the substance of issues of international information security and related notions,

1. *Calls upon* Member States to promote further at multilateral levels the consideration of existing and potential threats in the field of information security, as well as possible measures to limit the threats emerging in this field;

2. *Considers* that the purpose of such measures could be served through the examination of relevant international concepts aimed at strengthening the security of global information and telecommunications systems;

3. *Invites* all Member States to continue to inform the Secretary-General of their views and assessments on the following questions:

(a) General appreciation of the issues of information security;

(b) Definition of basic notions related to information security, including unauthorized interference with or misuse of information and telecommunications systems and information resources;

(c) The content of the concepts mentioned in paragraph 2 of the present resolution;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report based on replies received from Member States to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session;

5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-sixth session the item entitled "Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security".

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[2] A/54/213 and A/55/140 and Corr.1 and Add.1.